and, if not possible, to take action against them as warranted under the law immediately.

Expenditure on residential accommodation for officers of Airlines at Madras and Calcutta

1033. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the monthly expenditure incurred by the Air India, Indian Airlines, Vayudoot and Pawan Hans Ltd. on officers' residential accommodation, for their Madras and Calcutta based officers and also on the building hired for offices, godowns etc. during each of the last three years and under each head separately; and

(b) what is the number of officers of each service using the residential accommodations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

According of industrial status to Tourism

1034. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestions from FICCI that Tourism should be declared a central subject and be accorded the status of export-oriented industry;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof: and

(c) what have been the foreign exchange earnings from Tourism during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) No such suggestion has been received by the Department of Tourism in the recent past. However, there is a suggestion that for a coordinated approach for the development of tourism industry in the country, it would be appropriate to bring tourism under the concurrent list of the Constitution of India. Besides, tourism being the largest net earner of foreign exchange with potential for substantial growth, it should be given the status of export-oriented industry.

(c) As per estimates of the Department of tourism the foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the last two years were as follows:—

1986-87	Rs.	1780 crores
1987-88	Rs.	1890 crores

Irregularities in the Indian Council of Historical Research

1035. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have inquired into the working of Indian Council of Historical Research during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of irregularities in the working of the Council have been detected:

(c) whether it is a fact that several projects on which the Council had invested funds remained incomplete for years; and

(d) if so, whether any action has been taken or is proposed to be taken to improve the working of the Council by Government; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND

CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) : (a) to (d). No inquiry has been conducted into the working of the Council during the last three years. However, a review on the various activities of the Council was conducted by the Audit from June to October, 1987, covering the period from 1978-79 to 1986-has been included in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 1987 which was presented to the Parliament on 10th May, 1988. A copy of the report was received in the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 28th June, 1988 for furnishing 'action taken notes' in respect of the paras concerning the Ministry, which is receiving attention.

Damage to the Soviet Microminiature Sculpture

1036. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a precious Soviet microminiature sculpture on display in Delhi was destroyed due to the negligence of the Directorate of Festivals of India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that a case registered with the Delhi Police in this regard has been withdrawn, if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether some officials of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations are also involved in the destruction of Soviet Microminiature sculpture; if so, what action has been taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) : (a) No, Sir. However, a Soviet Microminiature sculpture on display in the Azad Bhavan Art Gallery under the auspices of Festival of the USSR in India was found missing on 23rd April, 1988.

(b) It was reported that an old lady visitor to the exhibition inadvertently stumbled against the tripod on which the magnifying instrument, in which the microminiature in question had been fitted, was kept. The magnifying instrument fell on the ground and the microminiature came off and fell apart. The Gallery Attendant on duty picked up the magnifying instrument and replaced it on the stand. Being microscopic, the Gallery Attendant failed to notice that the microminiature was no longer there in the magnifying instrument. The loss of the microminiature was noticed when one of the Soviet experts connected with the exhibition, pointed it out later.

(c) A case was registered with the police on the same day when the loss was noticed. The police scanned the floor of the Art Gallery with the help of magnifying glasses but failed to trace the miniature. Since the police were of the opinion that it was not a case of theft but of loss due to accident, the case was withdrawn on 25th April, 1988.

(d) No officials of the ICCR were involved in the destruction/loss of the Soviet microminiature. Nevertheless, the services of the two gallery Attendants who were in charge of the Azad Bhavan Art Gallery were terminated because of their failure to report the fact of the accident immediately as soon as it took place. One of them was later reinstated when it was established that the loss was not due to negligence on his part.